

## **Testimony of Chris Detjen, Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition**

Presented at the December 5, 2007 meeting of the Michigan House of Representatives' Energy & Technology Committee

### **- We want:**

- 5% annual energy efficiency increases between now and 2015 (the legislature is talking about 0.75% annual efficiency increases)**
- a renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) of 30% by 2030**
- integrated resource planning that will take into account Michigan's abundant renewable energy resources and energy efficiency opportunities before claiming that new coal and nuclear plants are necessary**

My name is Chris Detjen, and I am a senior at the University of Michigan. I am joined today by the \_\_\_ other college students you see behind/in front of you [gesture to others; others wave]. We are some of the leaders of the Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition, a organization of more than 300 students at 21 different colleges and universities across this state.

As a college senior, and I spend a portion of each day thinking about where I will go and what I will do when I graduate. I have lived in Michigan for 13 years, and Michigan has been good to me. But the Michigan I have grown up with is changing rapidly in the face of the related crises of climate change and economic stagnation. [more about how we can't stay in Michigan unless legislature takes measures to stem these crises. Mention that current energy efficiency goals-0.75% per year-are the bare minimum we should be striving or Mention goals of increasing energy efficiency by 5% per year between now and 2015, 30% RPS by 2030, and integrated resource planning.

Climate scientists tell us we need to reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050 if we are to avoid the worst impacts of climate change (extinction of 1/3 of species world-wide and sea level rise). Such pronouncements make the need for a strong RPS and EE standards unequivocal. But they also present an opportunity to rejuvenate Michigan's economy in ways unseen since the days of Henry Ford.

-Has been estimated that, in general, production of electricity from wind creates about ten times as many jobs per kilowatt-hour as does production of electricity from fossil fuels<sup>1</sup>

-Has also been demonstrated that there is no limit to the job opportunities that can be created through energy efficiency measures<sup>2</sup>

-->green jobs (Van Jones) are the kind that can't be outsourced, and they can benefit

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<sup>1</sup> Jose Goldemberg, "The Case for Renewable Energy," 2004, background paper for the International Renewable Energy Conference, Bonn, Germany.

<sup>2</sup> John Laitner and Martin Kushler, "More Jobs and Greater Total Wage Income: The Economic Benefits of an Efficiency-Led Clean Energy Strategy to Meet Growing Electricity Needs in Michigan," American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, November 2007.

current college students AND society's least advantaged (community college green job training programs)

-all this in addition to significantly alleviating one of Michigan's most crippling economic burdens: the \$20 billion we spend every year on imported fossil fuels which, in addition to being expensive, require the devastation of communities in Appalachia and Alaska for their extraction

Youth demand this, and we're strong

-National movement only going to get stronger

-Power Shift

-Bali

-You owe strong clean energy measures to yourselves and your constituents. Ultimately, you also owe them to your children and grandchildren, and to the world.